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Title: Sheet Media Input

Examiner: D. Bollinger

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up to block the leading edge of any next-to-top sheets that may have been pulled in to the separator 105 and to move them back into the stack. Teo, column 5, lines 29-64.

Separator 105 in Teo is the only impediment to the leading edge of top sheet 111 fed along the media path. Teo does not teach that kicker 203 impedes the leading edge of top sheet 111 or any next-to-top sheets as they are fed along the media path. On the contrary, Teo teaches moving kicker 203 out of the way so that it does not impede the leading edge of top sheet 111 or any next-to-top sheets dragged along with top sheet 111 as they are fed along the media path. Kicker 203 remains in the depressed/feeding position until after the pick roller has disengaged top sheet 111. At that point, next-to-top sheets 117 cannot in any way be deemed to be sheets fed along a media path.

Claim 3 – Substantially Vertical Supporting Surface. Claim 3 depends from Claim 1 and adds the further limitation that the sheet supporting surface comprises a substantially vertical surface. The Examiner has not made any showing or even presented any argument that Teo teaches the further limitation of Claim 3. Teo teaches a supporting surface that is not substantially vertical. "Substantially vertical" is specially defined in paragraph 0010 of the Specification as within 5 degrees of true vertical. The supporting surface in Teo is 20 degrees off true vertical (as measured with a protractor laid on Fig. 4a).

Claims 10-11, 16, 18-20 and 22 – Sheet Separator. Claims 10, 16, 19 and 22 recite movable and stationary sheet separator pads. The Examiner has not made any showing or even presented any argument that Teo teaches these limitations in Claims 10-11, 16, 18-20 and 22. Claims 11, 18 and 20 recite a movable feature configured to separate a top sheet from a next-to-top sheet. Claim 21 recites a movable means for separating a top sheet from a next-to-top sheet. Separator 105 in Teo is stationary. Kicker 203 in Teo is not a sheet separator pad. Hence, Teo does not teach a movable separator pad.

Respectfully submitted,



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